



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan offers condolences to family of Navajo Code Talker Matthew Martin

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan offered his sincere condolences on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council to the family of Navajo Code Talker Matthew Martin of Crownpoint, N.M.

Martin passed on Monday, June 22, in his home at the age of 84 from a lengthy illness; he was born on May 3, 1925, in Star Lake, N.M.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in Santa Fe, N.M., on Oct. 12, 1943 and soon after qualified as a marksman and a code talker immediately and attained the rank of corporal. He toured in combat duty in Iwo Jima and the Volcano Islands from Feb. 19 to March 16, 1945, and also during the initial occupation of Japan from Sept. 23, 1945 to April 20, 1946.

In 2001, he was awarded the Navajo Code Talker Congressional Silver Medal for his service as a Code Talker.

He is the fourth Navajo Code Talker to pass in the past five weeks. Code Talkers John Brown Jr. passed on May 20, Thomas Claw on May 26 and Willie Kescoli Begay on June 1.

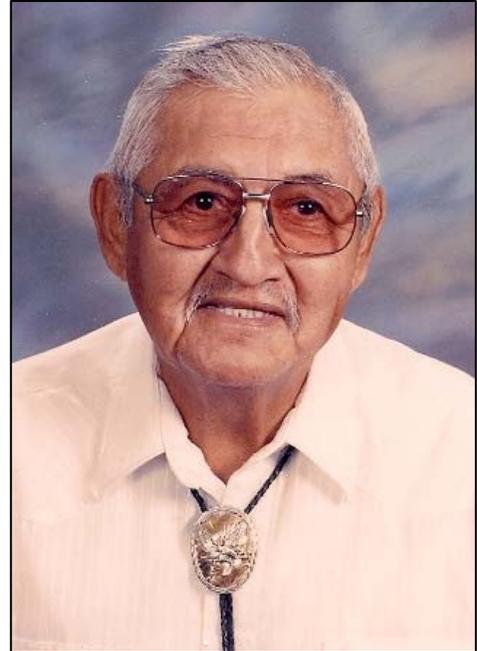
Navajo tribal leaders were in disbelief to hear of another Code Talker's passing within a five week period.

"We are truly fortunate to have had such noble men—gentleman—who played significant roles in American history, as well as our own Navajo history," Speaker Morgan said. "The Navajo Nation is honored to have such influence in American history; this year's Independence Day will be even more special as we remember our fallen soldiers and all who have contributed to preserving our independence."

Martin is survived by wife Linda E. Martin, his daughters Patricia Begay; Pearl Nez; Lucinda Rosenbauer; Perlinda Begay; Bernadette Martin; Merlinda Martin; Brenda Martin; Sharlinda Martin; sons Jasper Martin; Matthew Martin Jr.; Sgt. Lamar Martin; Patrick Martin and his siblings Paul Martin, Billy Martin, Leo Martin, Alice Platero and Bernice Etcitty.

He was preceded in death by his father Edgar Martin and mother Christine Tso, his siblings Tom Martin Sr., Mary Biggs and Willie Martin, and his sons Delbert Martin, Eugene Martin and Mar Martin.

The funeral service is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, at the Gospel Lighthouse Assembly of God Church in Crownpoint, N.M.



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